

Singing and Dancing with Brush and Ink: A Conversation on the Art of Wesley Tongson

Julia M. White · Yi Yi Mon (Rosaline) Kyo · Cynthia Tongson

To celebrate the opening of Asia Society Hong Kong Center's latest exhibition, *Singing and Dancing with Brush and Ink: The Art of Wesley Tongson*, guest curators Julia M. White and Yi Yi Mon (Rosaline) Kyo, along with the late artist's sister, Cynthia Tongson, will discuss the work of Hong Kong experimental ink painter Wesley Tongson (1957–2012). From Tongson's early tuition under prominent painters such as Koo Tsin-yaw (Gu Qingyao, 1896–1978) and Harold Wong (Huang Zhongfang, 1943–2022), to his development of experimental "ink play" painting techniques, and the relationship between his interior life and his painting practice, this discussion will offer deeper insight into the world and works of a pioneering figure in modern and contemporary ink art.

Julia M. White, independent Asian art consultant. White recently retired from the University of California, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive after 15 years as Senior Curator for Asian Art. Her final exhibition during her tenure was *Spiritual Mountains: The Art of Wesley Tongson*. She has been the recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Tokyo National Research Institute, and the Asian Cultural Council.

Yi Yi Mon (Rosaline) Kyo, Assistant Professor, University of California, Santa Cruz. Kyo's research focuses on modern and contemporary Chinese and Tibetan art and visual cultures. As a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA), she curated the first major exhibition of contemporary Tibetan art on the West Coast. Currently, she is preparing her book manuscript on Tibetan art from Lhasa and the diaspora community from 1960 to 2025.

Cynthia Tongson, Director, Wesley Tongson Charitable Trust. Tongson is the guardian of and advocate for the legacy of her late brother, Hong Kong ink artist Wesley Tongson. In addition to supporting exhibitions, she has placed Tongson's work in museum collections in Hong Kong and the United States. Currently serves on the boards of Chinese Culture Foundation of San Francisco as well as BAMPFA and a supporter of Asia Art Archive (Hong Kong and New York) and Asian Cultural Council (Hong Kong).

Thursday, 9 July 2026

6:00 pm Drinks

6:30 pm Talk, in English

7:45 pm Dinner

**101 Grosvenor House,
118 MacDonnell Road, Hong Kong**



Wesley Tongson, *Untitled, Spiritual Mountains Series*, 2010, ink on paper, 180 x 96cm, private collection. Courtesy of Wesley Tongson Charitable Trust and Asia Society Hong Kong Center.